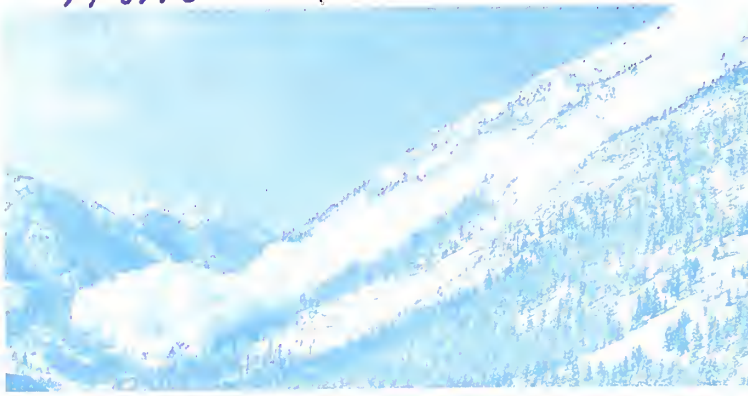


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Avalanche Notes

U.S. Forest Service
Westwide Avalanche Network

JANUARY 95

Weather

January snows were heavy in parts of Alaska, California, the Intermountain region, Colorado, and northern New Mexico, while the Cascades of Washington and Oregon received below-normal snows. For a few sites on the Westwide Network, January was the third consecutive month of snowfall that was far above normal.

Alyeska, AK, recorded 29" of snow on the 17th and 43" on the 19th-22nd, and received 140% of normal for January. It was the third consecutive month of heavy snow at Alyeska, which is on a pace to set a seasonal snowfall record. Eaglecrest, AK, meanwhile, was between storm tracks and saw little new snow.

In the Cascades of Washington, snows fell daily from the 7th-19th while the rest of the month brought little snowfall. As a result, all sites were below normal: Crystal Mtn., 87%; Stevens Pass, 83%; and Mt. Rainier (with 6" of rain on the 29th-31st), 53%. Mt. Hood Meadows, OR, got 31" of snow on the 13th-14th and finished the month with 95% of normal.

The Sierra of California was pummeled for the third straight month. Sugar Bowl, Squaw Valley, and Kirkwood Meadows all exceeded 200" of snowfall. Mammoth Mtn. got 240% of normal. Alpine Meadows recorded 170" of snow which was 250% of normal. Precipitation totals from snow and rain were almost 29" at Alpine Meadows and 34.5" at Squaw Valley. Two prolonged storms struck the Tahoe Basin area: On the 5th-16th, Squaw Valley recorded 162" of snow; Sugar Bowl, 154"; and Alpine Meadows, 120"; while on the 23rd-28th, Sugar Bowl got 61"; Alpine Meadows, 51"; and Squaw Valley, 48". Farther south, June Mtn. recorded 25" on the 5th, 50" on the 7th-11th, and 42" on the 23rd-25th.

In the Intermountain area, the storm track favored the more southern sites. In Utah, Alta recorded 185% of normal snowfall for its second heaviest January of record. Three storms hit the Wasatch, and Alta reported 31" on the 4th-7th, 94" on the 10th-17th, and 30" on the 25th-27th. Snowbird got 160% of normal, its third highest January total.

In Idaho, Sun Valley recorded daily snows on the 5th-15th and wound up with 168% of normal. In Wyoming, Jackson Hole received daily snows on the 6th-19th, but could manage only 95% of normal for the month. In Montana, Big Sky got 110% of normal, while Bridger Bowl got 86% and Big Mtn., 74%.

In Colorado, snowfall was above normal at almost all sites: Telluride, 177%; Aspen Mtn. and Purgatory, 150%; Beaver Creek and Red Mountain Pass, 135%; Steamboat, 125%; Copper Mtn., 120%; Crested Butte and Wolf Creek, 117%; Sunlight, 110%; Berthoud Pass, Gothic, and Monarch, all 105%; Vail, 98%; Arapahoe Basin, 78%; and Breckenridge, 68%. Taos, NM, received 23" on the 5th-6th and finished January with 177% of normal.

Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

Avalanche

745 avalanches logged at Squaw Valley, CA, this month! It's a Westwide record and exceeds the 683 total from Alpine Meadows in February 1983. Congratulations, Squaw, your prize is a golden pencil sharpener.

January was an active month for avalanches. Forty incidents were reported, resulting in 48 people caught, 18 partly buried, 10 buried, 6 injured, and 7 killed. In addition, 2 vehicles and 3 buildings were damaged, resulting in losses of about \$22,000. Here are details on the significant events:

Jan 7, Pebble Creek, ID: Four teenage skiers left the ski area boundary and triggered an avalanche. Three were partly buried (one suffered a broken leg) and one was totally buried. His life was saved when he was found by a probe line in 15 minutes under 4 feet of snow. In 1967, two people died in an avalanche on this slope.

Jan 10, June Mtn, CA: A lift shack was destroyed by a controlled avalanche.

Jan 14, near Ogden, UT: Two snowmobilers riding in Cutler Basin triggered and were buried by a massive avalanche. Both men died. Rescuers found one body within a few hours when a probe line struck him under about 5 feet of snow not far from his snowmobile. The second victim was recovered 8 days later from under more than 20 feet of snow.

Jan 14, near Breckenridge, CO: A ski tourer triggered an avalanche when he undercut a steep slope while skiing alone near Francie's Cabin. He was buried about 3 feet deep and died from suffocation. An avalanche dog found his body the next day.

Jan 17, Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT: A natural avalanche from White Pine Chute hit and demolished a car as it was heading up the canyon. The two occupants were very lucky and suffered only minor injuries.

Jan 21, near Crested Butte, CO: A snowmobiler was playing "highmark" on a steep slope in the Kebler Pass area when he triggered and was buried by a large avalanche. Other party members dug randomly around the partly-buried snowmobile and located the victim beneath 3 feet of snow. Buried 40 minutes, the victim was dead from suffocation. Though he owned a beacon, he had left it home.

Jan 22, Midway, UT: In a community of vacation homes near Park City, two 7-year-old boys were breaking off icicles that had formed on the steep roof of the A-frame cabin. Suddenly, the 4-foot-deep snow load released, slid off the metal roof, and buried one of the boys. The boy was buried about 30 minutes, and neither CPR nor hospital care could save his life.

Jan 24, Mt. Baldy, CA: In the midst of a large storm, two snowboarders entered a closed area and triggered a large avalanche. One man escaped by grabbing a tree. The other was swept down the path and buried in debris up to 25 feet deep. His body was found in late February.

Jan 30, Arizona Snowbowl, AZ: Two snowboarders left the boundary of this ski area near Flagstaff and triggered a large avalanche that fell 1800 feet vertical. One man was carried half-way down the path and was partly buried. He had died from severe trauma suffered in the fall or in collisions with trees.

Through January, 64 avalanche incidents have been reported, resulting in 85 people caught, 40 partly buried, 13 buried, 16 injured, and 11 killed. Also, 6 vehicles and 3 buildings have been damaged, at an estimated loss of \$52,000.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WESTWIDE WEATHER AND AVALANCHE NETWORK
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

JANUARY 1995
SUMMARY OF WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

AREA	SNOWFALL				WATER EQUIVALENT								SNOW DEPTH				TEMPERATURE			WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION																	
	TOTAL SNOW-FALL IN. IN.	AVG DEN	MAX		TOTAL WATER IN. IN.	MAX		NUMBER OF DAYS						MAX	T	MIN	AVG	MEAN MAX DEGREES F	MEAN MIN F	AVG	AVG FOR MO. MPH	6 HOUR PERIODS		FASTEST HOUR MPH	D A T E												
			IN	D		IN	D	A	E	G	E	G	E									15	20														
																										IN	D	IN	D	A	E	G	E	G	E	15	20

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS

ARAPAHOE BASIN, COLO	36.3	.07	7	8	2.48	.60	8	11	5	1	0		46	28	28	36	18.8	2.5	10.7	12.2	39	18	67	350	31
ASPEN MOUNTAIN, COLO	51.1	.06	10	29	3.22	.50	12	11	8	1	0		56	29	30	42	25.3	9.3	17.3	5.9	5	1	27	220	15
BEAR LAKE, RMNP, CO	28.5	.07	8	8	2.09	.50	8	12	3	1	0		31	8	21	27	24.7	14.1	19.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
BEAVER CREEK, COLO	58.2	.06	9	6	3.68	.60	6	13	7	2	0		53	28	36	45	19.1	7.5	13.3	6.4	2	0	19	250	7
BERTHOUD PASS, COLO	51.6	.07	9	27	3.78	.70	7	10	8	2	0		44	29	25	33	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
BRECKENRIDGE, COLO	35.3	.05	5	7	1.93	.25	6	10	5	0	0		39	15	27	34	15.2M	3.3M	9.3M	14.8M	55M	28M	42	210	10
COPPER MTN, COLO	47.4	.03	6	6	1.60	.30	8	9	2	0	0		36	13	24	31	22.5	5.5	14.0	15.9M	63M	25M	50	260	11
CRESTED BUTTE, COLO	46.5	.08	10	12	3.63	.65	8	14	7	2	0		49	12	29	40	20.7M	8.1M	14.4M	8.5M	10M	3M	39	240	15
ELDORA, COLO	31.5	--	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		19	13	11	16	25.0	3.5	14.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
GOTHIC, COLO	56.2	.06	11	8	3.61	.73	8	13	6	2	0		56	12	36	47	25.5	3.3	14.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
KEYSTONE, COLO	35.6	--	5	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		38	30	24	31	22.5	5.2	13.9	9.3	15	5	--	--	--
MONARCH, COLO	46.0	.07	9	17	3.13	.85	8	8	5	2	0		43	17	28	36	23.4	7.2	15.3	16.7M	62M	38M	--	--	--
PURGATORY, COLO	51.1	.08	9	5	3.86	.70	5	11	8	3	0		65	27	43	54	26.5	10.5	18.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
RED MTN PASS U.S.550	62.5	.07	11	6	4.35	.65	6	12	9	3	0		62	28	37	48	23.9	6.8	15.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
SUNLIGHT, COLO	43.9	--	9	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		49	29	35	43	22.6M	10.6M	16.6M	--	--	--	--	--	--
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	75.1	.06	12	6	4.37	.90	5	13	8	3	0		84	21	62	76	22.4	12.2	17.3	6.9M	9M	3M	27	260	11
TELLURIDE, COLO	66.3	.06	15	6	4.28	.90	6	13	9	2	0		58	27	37	48	20.0	8.1	14.0	7.3M	10M	3M	45	260	15
VAIL, COLO	60.9	.05	9	6	3.01	.55	6	13	7	1	0		49	29	32	41	22.3	7.9	15.1	5.9M	3M	0M	20	230	15
WOLF CREEK, COLO	73.3	.08	15	5	5.83	1.25	5	15	9	5	1		92	17	66	81	25.8	6.3	16.0	11.7	27	5	35	220	16

INTERMOUNTAIN

ALTA, UTAH	164.0	.08	30	15	13.70	2.40	15	--	--	--	--		135	17	64	98	31.0	13.0	22.0	11.4	22	9	--	--	--
BIG MOUNTAIN, MONT	51.5	--	7	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		92	18	68	80	27.6	15.8	21.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
BIG SKY, MONT	55.0	--	8	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		58	15	40	49	25.9	14.4	20.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	49.0	.09	10	28	4.55	.90	28	11	8	4	0		78	28	55	65	31.6	16.5	24.1	13.6	66	20	32	250	30
JACKSON HOLE 1, WYO	78.6	.09	10	7	7.18	1.00	8	16	12	7	1		90	19	55	74	20.9	14.9	17.9	13.9	50	23	42	240	8
SCHWEITZER BASIN, ID	45.5	--	8	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		103	19	82	93	29.1	19.8	24.4	--	--	--	30	270	11
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	121.5	.05																							
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO	66.5	.10	14	11	6.32	1.19	11	13	10	5	2		72	15	39	60	25.8M	14.7M	20.2M	10.3M	22M	10M	--	--	--
WOLF MTN., UTAH	76.8	.07	16	16	5.73	1.10	16	14	10	5	1		62	17	31	48	28.4	16.1	22.2	6.6	8	0	30	200	15

WEST COAST

ALPENTAL, WASH	68.7	.10	11	18	10.62	1.87	31	16	13	9	3		120	19	87	103	--	--	--	16.2M	63M	51M	51	80	1
ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	170.5	.13	19	11	28.91	3.51	11	20	20	16	11		137	28	73	108	33.1	24.2	28.6	31.3	103	85	100	230	9
ALYESKA, ALASKA	128.5	.08	29	17	12.67	2.17	17	14	12	6	5		138	21	102	116	27.2	18.0	22.6	4.4	0	0	14	100	16
CRYSTAL MTN 1, WASH	63.7	.12	10	9	11.82	1.98	31	16	15	9	3		83	29	53	69	32.9	24.9	28.9	23.6	106	87	53	120	23
CRYSTAL MTN 2, WASH	71.3	.12	14	10	11.21	1.98	31	16	14	8	4		103	10	75	92	28.5	20.7	24.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
EAGLECREST, ALASKA	25.5	.11	6	14	2.75	.78	19	7	6	1	0		132	14	122	126	30.4M	23.3M	26.9M	--	--	--	--	--	--
HEAVENLY VALLEY, CAL	101.5	--	13	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		97	18	48	76	30.8	16.1	23.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
JUNE MOUNTAIN, CALIF	162.8	--	26	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		117	25	34	84	31.3	15.1	23.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
MAMMOTH MTN, CALIF	136.3	.16	17	5	22.02	4.19	11	15	14	12	9		127	25	33	89	28.9	16.8	22.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
MT. RAINIER PARADISE	72.0	.11	12	18	14.01	2.47	29	16	15	11	4		168	18	129	148	34.5	25.4	29.9	6.1M	23M	11M	35	280	31
MT. HOOD MDWS, ORE.	82.1	.11	16	13	14.90	2.18	30	17	17	10	5		120	18	76	101	35.0	24.8	29.9	10.1	23	15	35	210	30
SNOQUALMIE PASS I-90	70.0	.12	12	18	11.75	2.17	31	15	14	9	2		103	19	73	86	33.3M	23.5M	28.4M	8.1M	2M	0M	18	90	20
SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	214.6	.16	22	9	34.51	5.21	15	20	18	16	15		213	27	114	179	30.4	21.2	25.8	30.3	91	74	106	230	9
STEVENS PASS, WASH	75.0	.06	10	18	5.95	1.50	31	13	10	4	1		110	18	89	98	29.9	21.8	25.8	8.9M	16M	1M	--	--	--
STEVENS PASS SE WASH	44.3	--	8	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		110	19	88	97	30.0	23.2	26.6	13.9M	62M	31M	60	90	20
WHITE PASS, WASH	65.1	.05	9	28	3.48	.37	28	15	10	0	0		57	29	34	43	17.9	6.2	12.0	7.0	9	0	24	290	7

-- DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING

M-ONE OR MORE DAYS OF RECORD MISSING-IF AVERAGE VALUE IS ENTERED, LESS THAN 10 DAYS RECORD IS MISSING

IF M IS ENTERED IN WIND SPEED COLUMN, LESS THAN 37 6-HOUR PERIODS ARE MISSING

GE--GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WESTSIDE WEATHER AND AVALANCHE NETWORK
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

JANUARY 1995
AVALANCHE SUMMARY

AREA	TOTAL	TOTAL	DATES OF				NUMBER OF DAYS WITH		TYPE OF AVALANCHE								FRACTURE LINE HEIGHTS IN FEET			VERTICAL DESCENT IN FEET				AVALS ACROSS MAJOR ACCESS ROADS NO.	
	A	A					A	S	A	N	SLABS														
	V	V					V	L	R	T	A														
	A	A					A	U	I	U	H	S													
	L	L					L	F	F	A	A	O	W												
	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	F	L	MAX IN ONE DAY NO.	D	A	S	S	L	T	D	T	E	GE 2	GE 4	GE 6	GE 200	GE 500	GE 1000	MAX FEET				
			T	T																					
										-----NUMBER-----								-NUMBER-			---NUMBER---				
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS																									
ARAPAHOE BASIN, COLO	27	27	8	29	10	8	7	0	15	12	6	21	0	0	27	6	1	22	9	0	850	0			
ASPEN MOUNTAIN, COLO	1	1	6	6	1	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0			
BERTHOUD PASS, COLO	30	38	1	31	7	8	12	0	17	13	5	25	0	0	27	4	2	23	9	1	1000	2			
BRECKENRIDGE, COLO	96	167	1	30	22	1	19	0	95	1	25	71	0	0	52	6	3	87	23	1	1100	0			
COPPER MT, COLO	24	58	6	26	9	8	7	0	24	0	4	20	0	0	23	8	2	19	8	1	1000	0			
CRESTED BUTTE, COLO	32	62	8	23	18	8	9	0	31	1	0	32	0	0	30	2	1	23	9	4	1800	0			
GOTHIC, COLO	39	77	5	31	9	8	13	0	0	39	2	19	0	18	13	3	0	38	29	10	2100	0			
LOVELAND PASS U.S. 6	77	102	2	30	19	8	16	0	46	31	5	71	0	1	52	3	0	65	16	1	1000	6			
MONARCH, COLORADO	11	17	7	19	4	8	4	0	8	3	0	11	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	300	5			
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	21	26	5	28	7	16	6	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	20	1	0	21	6	0	900	0			
URAD MINE, COLO	19	21	2	29	4	18	10	0	5	14	4	15	0	0	15	1	0	19	10	0	700	0			
WOLF CREEK, COLO	33	56	5	13	27	5	5	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	2	0	0	11	0	0	310	0			
INTERMOUNTAIN																									
ALTA,UTAH	329	614	5	29	67	15	18	3	310	19	18	311	0	0	103	89	3	172	88	8	1100	15			
BIG MOUNTAIN, MONT	13	13	9	18	7	18	4	0	13	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	450	0			
BIG SKY, MONT	60	161	8	31	13	28	12	0	60	0	3	57	0	0	4	0	0	59	52	5	1300	0			
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	166	401	1	30	27	28	16	0	166	0	9	157	0	0	28	1	0	163	121	30	1400	0			
JACKSON HOLE, WYO	70	96	7	31	19	8	13	0	67	3	2	67	0	0	30	3	0	65	29	0	900	0			
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	344	597																							
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO	21	22	9	27	9	9	5	0	15	6	1	19	0	1	18	0	0	8	3	1	1000	0			
WOLF MTN., UTAH	12	15	6	28	3	27	7	0	11	1	0	12	0	0	9	0	0	11	8	0	700	0			
WEST COAST																									
ALPENTAL, WASH	35	74	13	31	16	18	6	0	29	6	0	29	3	3	12	0	0	30	11	0	800	0			
ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	426	938	5	27	108	5	14	0	391	35	4	414	6	2	76	5	0	366	108	0	800	2			
ALYESKA, ALASKA	99	289	2	29	24	21	10	0	76	23	5	85	4	5	94	9	5	99	81	50	1900	0			
CRYSTAL MTN, WASH	319	773	8	31	57	15	13	0	295	24	3	271	16	29	65	0	0	290	142	7	1100	0			
HEAVENLY VALLEY, CAL	47	64	5	31	12	11	9	0	47	0	0	46	1	0	2	0	0	47	23	0	900	0			
JUNE MOUNTAIN, CALIF	40	47	5	24	9	7	9	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	26	12	7	37	13	3	1500	0			
KIRKWOOD MDWS, CAL	204	204	5	28	29	28	20	0	200	4	4	153	37	10	90	11	2	182	62	12	1600+	0			
MAMMOTH MTN, CALIF	181	250	5	28	28	10	14	1	181	0	6	171	3	1	36	5	1	135	79	29	2600	0			
MT. HOOD MEADOWS	27	122	13	19	11	13	3	0	27	0	1	26	0	0	3	1	0	13	5	0	650	0			
SNOQUALMIE PASS I-90	32	100	9	30	15	29	7	0	18	14	0	12	3	17	0	0	0	28	21	8	1550	10			
SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	745	1289	5	28	157	5	17	0	727	18	0	701	39	5	88	2	0	383	62	2	1000	0			
STEVENS PASS U.S. 2	17	65	8	31	8	31	4	0	15	2	0	9	8	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	1500	4			
STEVENS PASS, WASH	114	973	8	31	66	18	10	2	111	3	0	99	9	6	7	1	0	3	3	3	1500	3			
SUGAR BOWL, CALIF	90	166	5	27	39	7	9	0	89	1	0	90	0	0	50	5	2	72	16	0	800	0			
WHITE PASS, WASH	7	33	9	29	3	11	4	0	1	6	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0			

-- = DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING
GE = GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO
+ = ALSO OCCURRED ON OTHER DATES